

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SALT T 01358 011738Z

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ACTION SS-30

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2237

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SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: SGDSI

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: CONCEPT OF AGGREGATE THROW-WEIGHT OF CENTRAL SYSTEMS,

(SALT TWO--388)

1. I PLAN IN MY STATEMENT ON MARCH 5 TO SPELL OUT FURTHER ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF AN EQUAL LIMITATION ON MIRVED ICBM THROW-WEIGHT. IN VIEW OF THE QUESTIONS POSED BY THE SOVIET DELEGATION TODAY I INTEND IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTION (PARA 8 STATE 034414) TO INDICATE THAT, PROVIDED SOVIETS WILL AGREE TO LIMIT ICBM MIRV THROW-WEIGHT TO EQUAL AGGREGATE LEVELS, THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER LIMITATIONS ON SLBM MIRV THROW-WEIGHT AS WELL.

2. I ALSO INTEND TO INDICATE OUR INTEREST IN HAVING SUBSTANTIALLY EQUAL AGGREGATE THROW-WEIGHT OF CENTRAL STRATEGIC SYSTEMS INCLUDING AN ALLOWANCE FOR BOMBER PAYLOAD (STATE 037778). ON THIS POINT WE FORESEE SOME PITFALLS DEPENDING UPON THE LANGUAGE USED. FOR EXAMPLE, SINCE BOMBERS DO NOT HAVE THROW-WEIGHT AS SUCH, IT IS DIFFICULT TO REFER TO THE EQUAL AGGREGATE THROW-WEIGHT OF CENTRAL STRATEGIC SYSTEMS. FURTHERMORE, TO USE THE WORD "PAYLOAD" WITH REGARD TO BOMBERS SEEMS TO US TO CREATE POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES INCLUDING THE PROBLEM OF NOT MISLEADING THE SOVIETS INTO THINKING THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO EQUATE A FULL BOMBER PAYLOAD FIGURE

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SECRET

PAGE 02 SALT T 01358 011738Z

WITH A MISSILE THROW-WEIGHT FIGURE. ACCORDINGLY I WOULD APPRECIATE

ANY COMMENTS WASHINGTON MAY DESIRE TO MAKE ON THE FOLLOWING DRAFT PARAGRAPH WE ARE CONSIDERING FOR INCORPORATION IN OUR MARCH 5 STATEMENT TO SET FORTH THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR INSTRUCTIONS ON EQUAL AGGREGATE THROW-WEIGHT OF CENTRAL SYSTEMS.

3. BEGIN TEXT: THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO AGREE ON THE CONCEPT OF A HIGH DEGREE OF EQUIVALENCE IN THE CENTRAL STRATEGIC SYSTEMS OF THE TWO SIDES. TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THREE CONCEPTS: AN EQUAL LIMIT ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ICBM AND SLBM LAUNCHERS AND HEAVY BOMBERS POSSESSED BY EACH SIDE; AN EQUAL LIMIT ON THE THROW-WEIGHT OF ICBMS WITH MIRVS POSSESSED BY EACH SIDE; AND A SUBSTANTIALLY EQUAL AGGREGATE POTENTIAL OF THE CENTRAL STRATEGIC SYSTEMS AS REPRESENTED BY THE THROW-WEIGHT OF ICBMS, THE THROW-WEIGHT OF SLBMS, AND AN ALLOWANCE FOR THE HEAVY BOMBER FLEETS OF THE TWO SIDES. END TEXT.

4. APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S VIEWS FOR USE IN PREPARATION OF TEXT BY MARCH 4. JOHNSON

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